

# HUMANITY MUST PREVAIL

MR CHURCHILL has been reminding the United Nations that the unconditional surrender of the enemy in no way relieves the victorious powers "of obligations of humanity and of their duties as civilised and Christian nations." That is an admonition which may well be re-echoed throughout the world at this stage of the war.

The call to unconditional surrender which is the policy of the United Nations may seem to sound relentless. It is meant to be. From that first act of the enemy proceeds all else. Mercy, humane obligations, succour to the starving and homeless will then follow. These are our duties as conquerors, and pledge has been given that those duties will not be forgotten.

THIS pronouncement of the Prime Minister is apt and hopeful at the present moment. It declares that justice will be done in Europe, but that justice will not be devoid of humanity. This is a proclamation for Europe which, if it can be made known throughout the darkened lands of the Nazis, must bring a ray of hope to those who face the future with gloomy foreboding. In the main, the present struggle has done little to ennoble our common humanity. Hatred, suspicion, and greed have been rife; and, too often, the honourable decencies of our common humanity have been forgotten. That is war's inevitable and tragic liability, and it must be redeemed at all costs with all speed.

## The Victory of Civilisation

The obligations of humanity must again be lifted to the high and lofty plane from which war has lowered them. To accomplish this will be a supreme responsibility of the United Nations; and it will demand resolution, patience, and skill. Not in one moment can the nightmare of tyranny be dispelled from the lands of Europe; nor will the speeches of statesmen alone suffice. The victorious peoples themselves must be alert and eager to recognise that above the storm of conquest there must rise the still more supreme victory

over man's inhumanity to man, the victory of civilisation over stark barbarity. Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war.

To achieve this in the hour of victory will be to lay sure foundations for a lasting peace. As a wise prophet remarked at a dark moment of the war, "Almost everything depends on how the war ends." In the spirit and atmosphere of victory will be bred either the good will or the suspicions of the post-war world. Infinite good or further long years of misery will follow the making of the peace, and on the side of good is the recognition of the needs of humanity as a whole.

## The Touchstone of the People

To convey this awareness of our duties to the peoples of the enemy countries is a task of statesmanship which should not be neglected. Mr Churchill's words are among the most potent as well as the most significant he has uttered since the war began. It is to be hoped that some echo of them will resound in the dark fortresses of Germany and Japan before the final onslaught brings victory to the United Nations.

The Prime Minister's word rests, as he himself pointed out, on the foundation of our belief in ourselves as "civilised and Christian nations." Much that we have done and may be compelled to do may, perhaps, give the cynical a chance to be sceptical of our Christianity, for like all other peoples, we have not always abided by the high principles of the Christian religion. But at such a time in the history of mankind we must be aware in no uncertain manner where our duties lie, and in what manner they must be carried out.

OUR duties and obligations are nothing less than the full restoration, in national and in international affairs, of those same high Christian principles. Lofty ideals must be matched with good deeds; justice must be tempered with mercy; our common humanity must again prevail. The Christian Ideal must become, at last, the touchstone of the people.

## GIVING A BIRTHDAY AWAY Harvest of Sprats

ONE of the lessening links with Robert Louis Stevenson has been severed by the death of Mrs Anne Bourke Cockran of Long Island, USA; and a merry, unique, and wistful joke has run its 54 years' course and come to an end.

While Stevenson was living in Samoa a distinguished American, Mr H. C. Ide, was appointed Chief Justice there and became one of the novelist's close friends. One of Ide's daughters, merry-hearted Anne, having been born on Christmas Day, was wont to complain that she was defrauded of her natural rights to a birthday celebration of her own. Stevenson loved the child, and, entering joyfully into the spirit of her complaint, gave her his own birthday, November 13.

The transfer was made, when he was 41, in a mock legal document, attested by two witnesses, and, comprising a delicious mixture of stern legal phrases and laughing absurdities, remains a shining example of Stevenson at his best.

The little girl, states the document, having been born "out of all reason upon Christmas Day,

and therefore, out of all justice, denied the consolation and profit of a proper birthday," is henceforth to have his birthday. She is to "Exercise and enjoy the same in the customary manner, by the sporting of fine raiment, eating of rich meats, and receipt of gifts . . . according to the manner of our ancestors."

If she failed to do this, or to call herself Louise after him, then the donation was to become void and the birthday was to become the property of the President of the United States for the time being. But Anne did keep Stevenson's birthday as her own, as she was able to assure President Taft when, from time to time, he inquired into the matter.

When she grew up, Stevenson's protégé, married and wealthy, became the famous hostess, Mrs Bourke Cockran, who, with her warm-hearted husband, entertained innumerable British visitors at their charming Long Island home. With her death ends the long and pretty joke, which now becomes added to the volume of treasured memories that charm all who love the pleasant byways of literature.

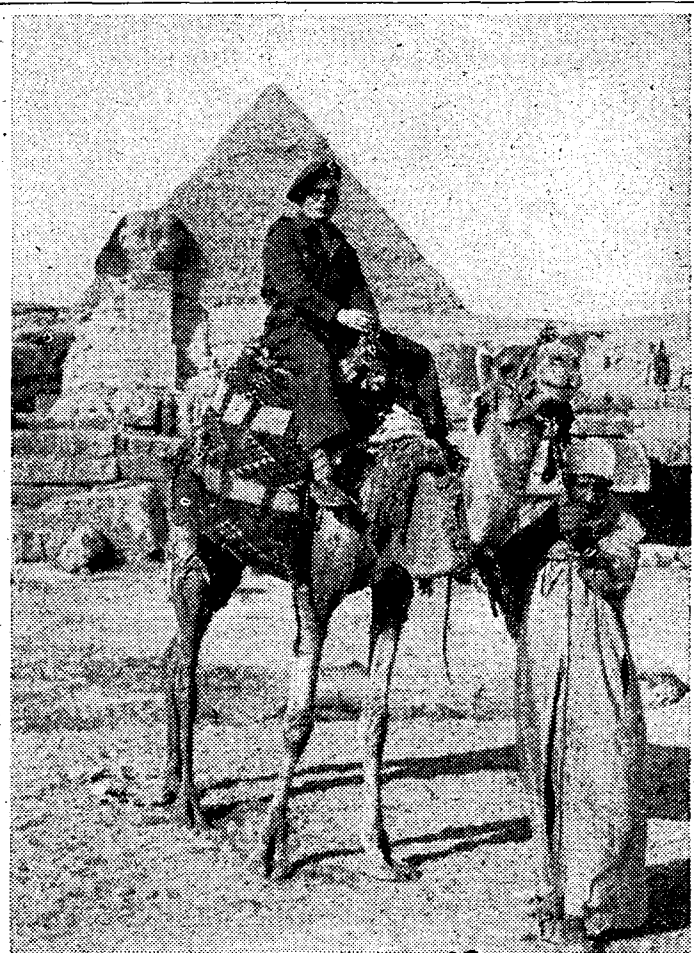
FISHERMEN along the coasts of Dorset, Devon, and Cornwall have reaped an exceptional harvest of sprats.

Unusually large shoals have appeared. Some have drifted westward in such swarms that Cornish fishermen say they have never known bigger catches; and it was something of an event at Looe the other day when 1500 stones of sprats, all a-gleam, were landed and despatched to London markets.

Although delicious and nutritious when fresh, sprats are so small that they rarely find favour with the busy housewife if there is other fish to be had. She knows that 20 or more sprats may be necessary for her family's meal, and they take much longer to prepare than a piece of cod, for instance.

Thus, in coastwise places, when plentiful supplies of larger fish are brought in by the boats, the wee sprat often goes unwanted. Folk in inland towns, however, where fish is not so easily obtained, are glad of the humble sprat and are always the best customers when there is an abundance.

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## Like Father, Like Son

In the last war the father of this soldier was photographed on a camel in front of the Pyramids in Egypt. In this war the son, Eric Lowther, has added a similar picture to the family's record of service.

## OUR BOOTS FOR THE SOLDIERS

IT is an odd thought, but a true one, that the new shoes or boots we should be buying if these were peace years are at the moment marching through Europe, climbing into aircraft, stumbling over snow-covered fields and through thorny jungles. They are carrying our soldiers to Victory, for the leather we want for new shoes has had to go to the Services. To make boots for an infantry division alone requires 195,000 lbs of leather.

The long-wearing rubber footwear of pre-war days is now for us just such stuff as dreams are made on; the Wellingtons, plimsols, crepe-rubber shoes. Our fighting men need all the rubber they can get, and it has been in

short supply since the Japanese gained control of nine-tenths of the world's raw rubber.

No wonder nowadays we cherish our shoes almost more anxiously than we do the regard of our friends, for we know our shoes must fail us in the end. Never before did we keep them so clean, dry them so carefully, stuff them with paper to keep them in shape, refrain from forcing our feet into them without first unlacing them, and, above all, avoid kicking stones with them, and dragging them along the ground.

By making shoes last as long as possible we are not only saving our coupons but directly helping the war effort.

## Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind

WE have all been grieved by reports of damage done by the great gales of this trying winter. But we ought to remember that there is a credit side to the stormy ledger.

For every tree blown down or damaged, tempests sow a thousand trees. But for storm-winds to bear their seeds afar, trees such as the ash, elm, and sycamore could not multiply. The seeds

must be detached from the trees and transported to sites where they will obtain the conditions necessary to their growth.

Animals, birds, and breezes are all potent tree-planters without which we should have inherited an almost treeless Britain.

But a gale at the right season broadcasts seeds enough in a single night to restock a countryside with trees.



## STEPPING-STONES TO HITLER'S CAPITAL

THE battleground is indeed Germany, as stated here last week, and Hitler's long-duped people are themselves at last experiencing the misery which for five long years they have ruthlessly inflicted upon their innocent neighbours.

Yet even at this, its hour of crisis, this conceited, vainglorious race disdains a foe that is proving a more efficient military power. Hitler has again been ranting about "Jewish-Asiatic Bolshevism." General Guderian, Commander of the German armies on the Eastern Front, has thought fit to encourage his men by declaring that the Soviets now think that impudence will lead to victory; and he refers with some scorn to their dare-devil thrusts.

Daring most certainly, but not without those other supreme qualities of order, discipline, and enthusiasm for a righteous cause have been the feats of the Soviet Armies, rivalling in these respects their Allies on the more heavily fortified western borders of Germany.

### The Allied Team

We cannot easily forget, for example, those vivid scenes of the Russian infantry side-stepping from icefloe to icefloe in crossing a river to capture the close-set German batteries; or of the American First Army clad all in white advancing waist deep in the snow before the break of dawn; or of the British battling yard by yard across the bleak dyke-scored plains of Holland; or of the French displaying their old élan in forest warfare between the Vosges and the Rhine.

That widest of the rivers in the vast European battle area, with the Siegfried Line to cover it, is proving the most formidable of Nazi bastions, and while awaiting the results of General Eisenhower's strategy, let us briefly glance again at the picture on the Eastern Front.

There towns that are world-famous come into the news for a brief day or two and then become past history, but liberated from Nazi oppression, and with their people, whether Germans or otherwise, able to face a future that has more promise of a free existence. Lodz was one of these towns.

So rapid was the Russian advance across Poland that the Nazis had no time to wreak their cruel spite before leaving.

Memel, too, freed once again from the Teutons, who founded it in the Dark Ages, can prepare its peacetime commerce and adopt once more its Lithuanian name Klaipeda.

Its coeval Königsberg, capital of East Prussia, with Pillau its port, will have to await an

Allied decision after the war; but the quay of Danzig, so many years a free city under the League of Nations, will never more ring with the jack boot of the Pomeranian Grenadier.

As we write, Marshal Zhukov has already crossed the Polish Corridor and entered Germany's Baltic Province of Pomerania, famous for its potatoes and also for its chow-like dog which may have been introduced by the Swedes who held parts of this ancient duchy even as recently as 1815. Its capital and seaport is Stettin, with shipbuilding yards and engineering works, and a peacetime population of 250,000.

Stettin is on the estuary of the Oder, the great river which comes down through Silesia and Brandenburg. Both these German provinces have been invaded, and of the industrial importance of hilly Silesia we wrote last week.

Brandenburg, on the other hand, is a somewhat unfertile plain, but is famous because, with Berlin at its heart, it is the nucleus of modern Germany. For it was the incorporation of the Duchy of Prussia with the Electorate of Brandenburg in the 17th century which led to the rise to power of the Great Elector Frederick William, whose successors, especially Frederick the Great, made their new Kingdom of Prussia a great political power in Europe. It was a power that never looked back as it absorbed in turn all the German-speaking States.

### Home of the Junkers

Brandenburg's borders have now been crossed, and Frankfurt-on-Oder (not to be confused with Frankfurt-on-Main), an industrial city of some 75,000 inhabitants, lies on the direct route to Berlin, 50 miles to its west. This ancient city shares with Potsdam the government of the province; for Berlin with its suburbs, an area of 341 square miles, forms a government of its own. Berlin has a population of over four millions, while the province of Brandenburg around it has some two and a half millions.

Brandenburg and East Prussia being the main sources of that bullying attitude to the rest of Europe which is inborn in the Junkers and has achieved its supreme infamy in the Nazis, it is most fitting that this part of Germany should be the first to fall to the all-conquering Allied Armies.

## A COMMONS' ARCHWAY

SIR GILES GILBERT SCOTT'S plan for the rebuilding of the House of Commons has been approved by Parliament.

The Prime Minister, who has taken a keen personal interest in the scheme, has suggested that the archway into the old Chamber which was damaged by an enemy bomb shall be preserved intact as a memorial of the war ordeal of Westminster—a most effective memorial if this can be done without the ruined archway looking incongruous in its new surroundings!

## Australia's New Governor-General

ON January 29, while celebrating Australia Day, our kinsmen in Sydney had the opportunity of welcoming the King's representative, their new Governor-General, the Duke of Gloucester. With the Duchess and their two sons he had left London on December 16.

Following his reception at Sydney the Duke was officially sworn in as Governor-General, in the Parliament House at Canberra. The Duke is the first member of the Royal Family to become Governor-General of Australia, and it is particularly appropriate that the King's brother should hold this position, for the Crown is the link which binds together the nations of the British Commonwealth; and his years of office will be vitally important in the story of Australia. The Commonwealth has played a great part in the war, with most of her adult population either in the Forces or working on munitions, and when the war in Europe is finished Australia will be the chief base for the British Empire forces that will gather to carry on the war against Japan.

Australia, moreover, is looking beyond the war into the days of Peace, and she is determined to build up a greater population by encouraging immigration. Her present population is about seven millions, and only recently the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Forde, endorsed earlier estimates that a population of 20 millions will be required to make Australia safe.

All success to Australia and her new Governor-General in the vital years ahead.

## WHEN THEY RETURN

LET us never forget that the men we are going to deal with saved civilisation, and that on the way they are dealt with will depend very largely the shape of things to come.

These words were addressed recently to industrialists by Sir Godfrey Ince, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, and the men were the men of our fighting forces when they come to be demobilised.

Sir Godfrey referred particularly to those young fighting men who were scarcely more than boys when they joined the forces, young men who fought in such encounters as the Battle of Britain, and who, when they return to civil life, will be out of touch with conditions at home. Such men, Sir Godfrey declared, must be made to feel that their employers have given thought in advance to their problems.

It will be up to all employers and others at home to show tolerance and gratitude to those men, and women, too, who saved civilisation. Employers who served in the war of 1914-18 will understand. Therein lies a great hope.

## In Memory

IN a recent C.N. we told of the £5125 sent from Africa to Field-Marshal Alexander towards rebuilding the bombed Guards' Chapel in London. We now hear that stained glass from the chapel is to be sent to Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, to provide a window in a memorial chapel to that country's fighting men.

## LITTLE NEWS REELS

MORE than three million books will form a War Office library to give demobilised Service men and women instruction in every trade and profession in civilian life.

Wartime nurseries at Guildford are attended by nearly 300 children.

A veterinary surgeon of the R.S.P.C.A. recently operated on a cat and removed a needle and thread from its throat.

The birthrate in England and Wales during the September quarter last year was the highest since 1924: 183,659 babies were born.

Food for Greek children is being taken to the Piraeus in the Turkish ship Konia.

More than 150,000 toys from Belgium for provincial children in Britain filled 10 railway containers. Princess Elizabeth broadcast a message of thanks to the Belgian children.

THE Home Office are considering a plan for the formation of a Police Cadet Corps.

Since August, 1943, eight million rats have been destroyed in England and Wales.

For rescuing three Merchant Navy cadets when their dinghy foundered, Mrs Margaret Monk, purser in the training ketch Moyana, has received the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's award. With the help of another cadet she lowered the motor-launch from the ketch into the water to save the cadets.

## Liberation News Reel

BRITAIN and America were saved between 100,000 and 150,000 casualties by the use of the artificial "mulberry" ports in the invasion of Normandy last summer, stated Mr Bevin, Minister of Labour.

In their spare time London firemen are making mine detectors, radiolocation units, and parachutes for incendiary bombs.

Inverness has adopted the town of St Valery in France where the 51st Highland Division made their heroic stand in 1940.

Britain and the U.S. have agreed to arm and keep supplied several hundred thousand more French troops.

Smashing up Germany's V.2 rocket system has become a chief task of the Second Tactical Air Force.

Since the war began Britain has advanced over three hundred million pounds to her Allies.

GIRLS of the W.A.A.F. saved an aerodrome in Scotland from being isolated by a blizzard recently. They worked night and day clearing the snow from essential runways and digging vehicles out of snowdrifts.

## Youth News Reel

THE Bronze Cross, the highest Scout Gallantry Award, has been awarded to 13-year-old Scout B. D. Evans, of the 1st Penarth Group, for his heroism in rescuing a boy from drowning in a rough sea at Penarth.

In Switzerland there are now 26,000 Boy Scouts, an increase of about 5000 since 1939.

Keighley Scouts are sending a flag to the Scouts of Eindhoven in Holland in recognition of their great service to British troops.

The House of Commons has approved the policy of compulsorily sending members of the A.T.S. overseas.

Help in repairing and rebuilding 64 houses destroyed or damaged in Norwich will be given by boy apprentices in the building trade.

EXCAVATIONS in Canterbury have revealed the bases of two massive Roman walls, and hundreds of fragments of second-century pottery were also found. Digging has been carried out by schoolboys and members of the W.A.A.F. and N.F.S.

Mrs Aytoun of Inverness at 103 is still busy knitting scarves for men of the Merchant Navy. Mrs Sarah Reaves of Stanford le Hope in Essex, is just as busy at 105, knitting for the Red Cross.

Stocks of clothes which the Board of Trade ordered to be kept in reserve for blitzed towns are to be released to the shops.

The statement in last week's C.N. that Corporal Sukanaivalu of Fiji was the first colonial V.C. referred, of course, to this war, as previously stated in the C.N.

Post Office Savings Bank deposits have reached a new record — £1,492,147,000 among 18,950,000 savers.

A "Mr Nobody" of Southend last year collected bun pennies to the amount of £113 10s 9d for poor children.

The Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, has bought the portrait of Henry VIII attributed to Holbein and long in the possession of the Seymour family.

£250 has been offered to the first Russian soldier to reach Berlin by Mr David Kay, a New York business man who is a native of Lublin.

50 Liberty ships are to be released by the U.S. for the use of France. They are to be manned by French sailors.

It took Germans in Norway 15 days to repair a railway line damaged by Norwegians and the day after it was repaired Norwegian paratroops, flying from Britain, severed the line again north of Trondheim.

Brazilian airmen, flying in Thunderbolts, bombed and destroyed a powder factory north of Milan.

A GERMAN language weekly paper, sponsored by the Allies, has been published in Aachen. The leading article in the first number said: "The times of Nazi dictatorship have ended. It is up to us now to start anew."

1003 British prisoners, taken by E.L.A.S. forces during the fighting in Greece, have now been liberated under the terms of the truce.

## Cold Comfort

OF all places, one would regard an ice factory as the coldest, for there it is always freezing. Yet it has been recorded that, during the bitter cold of last month, the storage chambers of an ice factory in Nottingham were sometimes warmer than the street outside!

On hearing of this, Peter Puck wrote and sent us these lines:

There's ice and snow on road and hill,  
On roofs and eaves and ridge...  
So, come inside, if you are chill,  
And warm up in the frig.





## Guerilla Girl

This cheerful young lady has had some strange adventures since she left her home in Russia to become a guerilla. Captured by the Nazis she was forced to work on fortifications in France until liberated by the Allies. Here she is working in the camp where she and 3000 other Russians are waiting to return to their homes.

## A NEW ORKNEY CHURCH

A LEGACY of £30,000 has been left for the building and endowment of a church and manse on Stronsay, one of the Orkney Islands. The legacy is one of a number of charitable bequests in the will of Mr. A. Moncur, well known jute manufacturer of Dundee.

## BRITISH GLASSES FOR RUSSIA

TWO million pairs of spectacles were sent to Russia recently in response to an appeal made to Britain by Moscow. It is the biggest order that British optical manufacturers have ever executed. The spectacles were sent, although in this country they are in short supply.

In Russian factories many women are suffering from eyestrain as a result of intricate work to which they are unaccustomed, and they will be among the first to receive glasses.

In Britain the shortage is due to an increase of five million spectacle wearers since the war, and also to the difficulty of obtaining skilled workers in the optical industry. The two million sent to Russia is a sacrifice which will be greatly appreciated by our Allies.

## He Held the Bridge at Arnhem

ANOTHER deathless story of heroism has been told in the award of a third VC to one of that gallant band who last September descended from the sky to attack the Germans at Arnhem. It was won by Lieutenant John Hollington Grayburn of the Parachute Regiment. Sadness tinged the glory of his deed, for he died fighting.

Lieutenant Grayburn and his platoon captured the northern end of the bridge over the Rhine at Arnhem, and for three days held on under a continuous storm of shells and bullets. During all this

time the officer, wounded in his shoulder and back, and weak from pain, lack of food, and sleep, never ceased for a moment to lead and encourage his men to beat off the constant attacks of the enemy. He refused to go back as a wounded man, and when at last he was ordered to bring his men back to the main position, he was the last to leave. He was killed that night.

All lovers of Freedom mourn his passing, but the story of his heroism shall live with his name for evermore.

His was the 125th VC won in this war.

## A HELPING HAND

WHEN peace returns we feel sure it will bring a great boom to youth organisations dealing with outdoor activities. There will be a demand for instance, for many more Youth Hostels conveniently situated in good walking country.

It is, therefore, good to learn that these national organisations will continue to receive substantial help from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust when the Trust's generous help is no longer needed by local Youth Clubs. For when the new Education Act comes into force on April 1 these local clubs will become the joint responsibility of local education authorities and the voluntary bodies concerned.

For the national organisations the Trust will grant up to half the cost of new equipment for hostels and camps.

## AIRMAN'S ORDEAL

DOCTORS believed that a man could live only 20 minutes in the North Sea during the cold winter months, but Lieutenant Hule H. Lamb, of the US Air Force, was alive after being 45 minutes in the water. His temperature was five degrees below normal when he was rescued, after baling out from his Mustang.

## THE WEALTH IN WASTE

By careful preservation nearly four million tons of waste paper have been salvaged and used for munitions of war and other useful purposes.

Sawdust is now being used in plastics, for fuel, and for the making of bricks and tiles.

Before the war we exported scraps of various kinds to the Continent, and much of it has since come back to us in enemy bombs.

These are some of the facts revealed by Mr C. U. Peat, of the Ministry of Supply, when opening a Wealth from Waste Exhibition in London.

The moral of all this is obvious: in war necessity is the mother of invention which must needs go at a gallop. But research and ingenuity are no less important in days of peace.

## ALL ELECTRIC

LORD BRABAZON, president of the Electrical Development Association, recently opened in London the first exhibition of post-war electrical equipment for use in the home. It was explained that the show was a preview of what would be turned out by the manufacturers in less than six months after the war.

A panel of experts designed kitchens with electric washing machines, drying cupboards, built-in buffet cookers, refrigerators and overhead heating.

Pointing out that the power plugs in the models were at a convenient height from the floor, Lord Brabazon said that having nearly to stand on his head to turn on the power infuriated him.

## SWEETS FOR BRITAIN'S CHILDREN

A RECENT appeal by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Australia, for funds to purchase sweets for children of the United Kingdom, met with a swift response. £5400 was the target, and this money will buy 100,000 lbs of pancake candy, which will be packed in 1-lb packets and shipped to the Motherland.

## UNDER THE COUNTER

AFTER several visits to the shops, hopeful of buying some nuts, a West-country woman had given up the quest as fruitless.

Then, one day while she was shopping, her terrier dog disappeared behind the counter, and, to her astonishment, returned with an almond in his mouth and laid it at her feet!

"So you have some nuts, then!" she exclaimed to the shopkeeper.

"Oh, yes," was the reply. "You may have some if you like."

A few minutes later, the woman left the shop in triumph, carrying half a pound of nuts—thanks to tailwagger.

## POP'S PIPE

OWING to the fact that briars cannot be imported, American pipe manufacturers are now using mountain shrubs of various types, including rhododendrons and laurels, for the bowls of their pipes. The roots are being sold by mountain farmers in North Carolina for £4 and £5 a ton.

Vast quantities of these new pipes are being made for the Forces, and at present there are only limited quantities for civilian distribution. Briar for pipes was formerly imported from Mediterranean countries; but, say many manufacturers, pipes from native woods have come to stay.

## The Lonely Little Brother

IN the busy grocery store, the girl cashier sat with a batch of coloured "comics" on her desk. A customer asked her if she enjoyed reading them, and her face grew wistful.

They were for her little brother, she said, given to her by a customer. He was 12, this brother, and had been evacuated to Buckinghamshire when he was 7. Not far away, perhaps, but too far for many visits. Now it is not

easy to buy "comics" in a village, but they were the little boy's chief link with the life of Town he so longed for, and every one meant a few hours of happiness.

A few hours of happiness! In the face of his sister, busy with her bills and her giving of change, it was easy to see that if she could make her little brother happy, she could be happy, too. No wonder she treasured that collection of "comics"!

## BURNING QUESTION

GEORGE JOHNSON, manager of the American Institute of Laundering, has announced the finding of a method for making clothes fireproof.

This method of fireproofing cloth, which does not affect the colour of the cloth or make it feel coarse, was developed after the great circus fire at Hartford in Connecticut. At present it is restricted to hospital and hotel laundry.

## THE BIBLE IN PRISON

AN Indian who had never in his life given a moment's thought to the New Testament had his interest in it aroused in a strange manner.

The story begins with a schoolboy buying a copy of the New Testament in Hindi, and having it taken away from him by his schoolmaster because he was reading it in class. Shortly afterwards the schoolmaster was arrested for being involved in a political disturbance and sent to gaol with the boy's book in his pocket.

His fellow prisoners became curious about this Book, which all day held him spellbound. One of them offered to buy it, but the schoolmaster refused because he wanted to read it again, but he told the other man where he could buy a copy.

As soon as this second man was released he hurried eagerly to the Mission Station and bought a copy of this Book which evidently contained a fascinating story, explaining to the missionary how he had heard about it.

## CLUB FOR HEROES

THE recently-formed Pathfinders' Club is one of the most exclusive of all clubs. A man wearing a gilt badge of the R A F wings on the left breast-pocket of his uniform is a Pathfinder; and only 1200 men in the world are entitled to wear it.

The founder and president of the club is a man who has been described as "the finest navigator in the world," Air Vice-Marshal D. C. T. Bennett, Chief of Bomber Command's Pathfinders. The committee hopes that after the war it will be able to establish a permanent Club in London and obtain use of an airfield, and aircraft at special rates.

## GETTING CLOSER

A VERY witty American artillery observer, fighting near St Vith in Belgium, recently remarked to his gunners, "Don't overshoot, boys, you might hit the Russians."

Perhaps this lighthearted remark will become a grim injunction to Allied gunners in a few weeks' time.

## FOR OIL RESEARCH

A GIFT worth about £4,000,000, bringing in a yearly income of £250,000, has just been made to an American scientific society.

The entire stock and securities of the Universal Oil Products Company have been presented to the American Chemical Society. This astounding gift was announced at the recent annual dinner of this immense society, at which there were 2200 guests. The entire income is to be devoted to research work on oils and the oil industries.



## Railwaymen in Khaki

Skilful and experienced hands repair a damaged railway bridge in Italy. These men belong to a Railway Construction Company of the Royal Engineers. Most of the company were railwaymen in peacetime, working for the L N E R.





### The Rajah's Wrestlers

Rather queer costume for wrestlers, but it is the traditional garb for the contests forming part of the entertainment at the coronation of the Maharajah of Manipur in India, which was delayed three years owing to the invasion by the Japanese, who have now been driven out of the State.

### BUSINESS AS AN ADVENTURE

LORD WOOLTON, the Minister of Reconstruction, had highly important things to say when addressing business men at Bristol a few days ago about the Export Guarantees Bill which is before Parliament.

"Ahead of us," he declared, "lies a period when the spirit of adventure will be needed as never before if we are to restore the nation's prosperity and reconstruct its fortunes after the crippling efforts of more than five years of war."

In explaining the purposes of the new Bill, which seeks to raise the limit of the Government's liability under export guarantees from the pre-war figure of £75,000,000 to £200,000,000, Lord Woolton pleaded for "combined

operations" between business men, their employees, and the Government to win the battle of production in peace. With the world abroad hungry for our products, he said, we must not tempt our customers overseas to find other sources of supply. Private enterprise, aided if necessary and certainly backed by the Government, must go into the world's highways and byways to test and determine markets. Our export trade must be restored, for everybody's benefit.

Lord Woolton is a great believer in private enterprise, which, he thinks, cannot be successfully replaced by Government officials with no personal interest in the outcome of their plans.

### Helping Peacetime Industry

BEFORE the mighty wheels of peacetime industry begin to turn again, many firms, large and small, will require financial help to get going. New premises, plant, equipment, and so forth will be needed. The great banks will, of course, help with loans, but this will not, in the Government's opinion, cover all the needs. Accordingly, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced the setting up of two new Financial Corporations, one to help larger businesses and the other to assist firms

of smaller size. When one knows the resources that these two Corporations will have at their disposal (£125,000,000 in one case and £45,000,000 in the other), it can be appreciated that the Government are in earnest.

The scheme shows the determination of the Government to make sure that our industries will get the loans they need.

The two new Corporations will be staffed by experts, who will see that loans are made wisely, and that national, and perhaps international, benefit will result.

### THE FRIENDLY MAPLE

A CORRESPONDENT, interested in the paragraph in last week's CN about the planting of the Canadian maple in Lincoln's Inn Fields, has sent us these notes:

All the maple trees in Britain are the descendants of trees introduced from abroad; but the Canadian maple is of a different species from the British. Ours has a sugary sap, but the North American maples have this sap in such abundance that, just before spring, when it is about to rise, the trunks are tapped, and yield immense quantities of sugar.

It has been found that this tapping process can be continued year after year for more than a generation without harm to the tree. Rubber trees and plants yield their sap in the same way to supply a product that science turns to a thousand uses.

We know that British maples must have come from Europe or Western Asia from the fact that their presence here as rarities was noted by writers before America was discovered. At that time the New World had millions upon millions of maples, but white men knew nothing of them.

### What Would Gilbert Have Said?

WE hear that a company in America now performing the famous Gilbert and Sullivan operas is playing in little theatres, its members using microphones and loudspeakers to amplify their voices. How, we wonder, do the Pirates of Penzance, declaring that all they do and say is marked by extreme silence, achieve the exact effect of their amusing chorus? And what would Sir W. S. Gilbert, the witty, sarcastic author of the words, say to it all?

Americans caused both author and composer considerable concern during their lifetime. When, in 1878, HMS Pinafore was produced in England, international copyright did not exist, so enterprising Americans played the piece all over their country, with immense profit to themselves but none to Messrs Gilbert and Sullivan. Forty-two companies, it was said, were playing this opera at one time in various cities of the States. Concert parties, too, gave performances of the work, and one cathedral choir company introduced the opera to its audience with a preface, singing first the Gloria from Mozart's Twelfth Mass, and then the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah.

Eventually Gilbert and Sullivan took out their own company, and showed America, how, in their opinion, the opera should be sung and acted. Then, so that they might have the benefit of American copyright and reap the reward of their labours, they produced their next work, the Pirates of Penzance, not in London, but in New York, eight months before the people of this country saw or heard it.

So great was the haste that Sullivan had to write most of the music of the opera in America. Taking the vocal music of the second act complete with him, when he reached New York he had to write the vocal music of the first act and the orchestral music of the entire work.

Sir Arthur Sullivan foresaw much; both he and his gifted partner believed that their work would long outlive them, but neither of them imagined that microphones and loudspeakers would be invented and used to get the wit, the poetry, and the lovely melodies across the footlights of theatres, little or large.

### FOR THE MEN OUT EAST

SEVERAL firms in Scotland are now on preparatory work of a special nature for the Far Eastern war. It is known officially as T.P. or Tropic Proofing, and is the protective treatment, packing, and marking of vast quantities and supplies.

The supplies for our fighting men in tropical climates have to endure the most relentless conditions, and as a result they are subject to damage, or even complete destruction, on a scale unknown in the European sphere.

It has now become possible to provide our fighting forces with the stores they need in perfectly good and lasting condition. The complicated scheme is a joint project of this country and America and has been established with the help of the Government departments and armed services of both countries.

### The EDITOR'S TABLE

#### Youth in Command

THE senior air staff officer of a group operating under Eastern Air Command is a young man of 26, Group-Captain William D. David, D.F.C. and Bar, whose home is at Surbiton, Surrey. Group-Captain David was a Battle of Britain pilot and destroyed 28 German aircraft.

Here is an outstanding instance of giving youth a chance in a highly responsible position. But this gallant young airman has been through the mill of hard experience and has developed qualities of leadership. With these assets, and youth and energy on his side, who could be better fitted to take command of an air group?

#### STEEL TRAPS

THE Minister of Agriculture has decided that he cannot withdraw the wartime regulation which allows the use of steel traps, for killing rabbits in the open.

In the House of Lords the other day the Duke of Norfolk said that 50 of the 61 County War Agricultural Committees in England and Wales had sanctioned their use.

Brer Rabbit is, of course, a destructive pest and his depredations must be reduced to a minimum when the nation's war-time food is concerned. But there are humane methods of reducing the rabbit population, methods which do not endanger other animals and birds which are friends of the farmer. As the C.N. has said before, we should like to hear of the total prohibition of the steel trap.

#### JUST AN IDEA

Wise age, when it must check the eagerness of youth, does so with a sigh.

### CARRY ON

#### About the Feet of God

PRAY for my soul. More things are wrought by prayer Than this world dreams of. Wherefore let thy voice Rise like a fountain for me night and day; For what are men better than sheep or goats, That nourish a blind life within the brain, If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer Both for themselves and those who call them friend? For so the whole round Earth is every way Bound by gold chains about the feet of God. Tennyson

#### Blessings That Blossom

BLESSED be the hand that prepares a pleasure for a child, for there is no saying when and where it may bloom forth.

Philip James Bailey

### WORDS TO

WE shall strive for perfection. We shall not achieve it immediately, but we still shall strive. We may make mistakes, but they must never be mistakes which result from faintness of heart or abandonment of moral principle.

These words sound like an extract from the wise sayings of Abraham Lincoln or our own Edmund Burke. In fact, they were said only a few days ago by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in his fourth inaugural address as President of the United States.

Today, in this year of war, 1945, said Mr. Roosevelt, we have learned lessons, at fearful

#### Meet Your Councillor

COUNCILLORS of the Harbour and East Wards of Folkestone are opening an office where ratepayers can meet their representatives and discuss local affairs. The new office is an experiment, but it is hoped that the people of Folkestone will take full advantage of it.

This example of municipal enterprise is one that might well be followed by other local councils.

### Under the E

Now is the time for looking over your garden paths. - Some people prefer to look over their garden fences.

A MAN says his house wants to be repaired. He should let it.

WHEN a boy takes a new job he must often put his pride in his pocket. Until he gets his hand in.

A CRITIC said he found a new film touching. Should not have got so close to it.

PETER WANTS KN



If tuck are kept mak

### The Chimney S

IN one of the state-beds at Arundel Castle, a few years since, under a ducal canopy, encircled with curtains of delicate crimson, with starry coronets inwoven, folded between a pair of sheets whiter and softer than the lap where Venus lulled Ascanius, was discovered, by chance, at noonday, fast asleep, a lost chimney-sweeper. That little creature, having somehow

### PROPHECY

THESE things shall be! A loftier race Than e'er the world hath known shall rise With flame of freedom in their souls And light of knowledge in their eyes.

They shall be gentle, brave, and strong, To spill no drop of blood, but dare All that may plant man's lordship firm On earth, and fire, and sea, and air.



## REMEMBER

cost, and we shall profit by them. We have learned that we cannot live alone, at peace; that our own well-being is dependent on the well-being of other nations far away. We have learned that we must live as men, not as ostriches nor as dogs in the manger. We have learned to be citizens of the world, members of the human community. We have learned the simple truth, as Emerson said, that "the only way to have a friend is to be one."

With such a man at America's helm, who can doubt that that great country will work not only for a better nation but for a better world?

## PARTNERS

WHILE making excavations for air-raid shelters in London many Roman relics of the First Century were discovered. Some of these have been displayed in the big U S Officers' Mess at Grosvenor House, London, a showcard declaring, with undeniable truth, that "This is your history."

Their history—and ours. And side by side we are still making history.

## UNWANTED SIGNS

THE disfigurement of our villages and countryside by ugly signs and advertisements has for too long been a national scandal; and it is gratifying to learn that there is a growing awareness of this abuse—that there are signs that these signs are universally condemned.

The Scott Report on Land Utilisation in Rural Areas recommended control of advertisements by licensing; but there are other authorities, including the council for the Preservation of Rural England, who would go much further and prohibit all advertisements in rural districts, except essential local ones.

We confess ourselves to be wholeheartedly with C P R E in this matter. Advertising undoubtedly has its uses, and undoubtedly, too, it has its place in our modern way of life. But it has no title to a place above an English hedgerow, or in a field, or at the approach to a village.

We shall all be the gainers if those myriads of multi-coloured hoardings and signs are removed, once and for all, from our lovely countryside.

## Women at the Universities

It is probable that, for the time being, the women's colleges at Oxford University will be allowed to admit undergraduates in excess of the figures to which they are at present limited. No permanent increase is contemplated at present, however, though we shall see what we shall see, for more and more of our young women are on the march along the highroads of higher education.

Surely, too, the time is coming when our clever young women will knock so loudly at Cambridge University doors that they will have to be granted equal rights with their brothers in that ancient home of learning.

## When All is Young

WHEN all the world is young, lad,  
And all the trees are green;  
And every goose a swan, lad,  
And every lass a queen;  
Then hey for boot and horse, lad,  
And round the world away;  
Young blood must have its course, lad,  
And every dog his day.

When all the world is old, lad,  
And all the trees are brown;  
And all the sport is stale, lad,  
And all the wheels run down,  
Creep home, and take your place there,  
The spent and maimed among;  
God grant you find one face there  
You loved when all was young.

Charles Kingsley

## TWO MEN

THE difference between a well-bred man and an ill-bred man is this. One immediately attracts your liking, the other your aversion. You love the one till you find reason to hate him; you hate the other till you find reason to love him.

Dr Johnson

## Learning to Speak Chinese

CHINESE, the world's most difficult tongue, is now being eagerly studied in Britain, most of the students being men and women in the Services and various ambulance units, who will need to know the language in the course of their war and post-war welfare duties.

The Chinese they are learning is the popular tongue, widely spoken in China despite the huge number of other dialects which make so many provinces of China unintelligible to each other; and the main centre of learning here is the School of Oriental Studies in Bloomsbury, a college of London University. But other busy centres are at Oxford and Cambridge.

A Chinese "good will mission" came to Britain not long ago, and its members are studying our language and ways. Among them are Mr Hsiao Chen, correspondent of the Chungking newspaper *Takungpao*, who used to teach Chinese at the School of Oriental Studies, and at Cambridge. Mr S. I. Hsiung, the gifted author of *Lady Precious Stream*, is still with us, and so is Mr Chiang Yee, the artist-author, who describes and illustrates our lovely countryside.

## Writing as a Fine Art

Very popular with our students of Chinese is a reading-book of simple sentences prepared by Mr C. H. Lee and Dr W. Simon, Reader in Chinese at London University. These sentences are given in English, with the Chinese equivalent in the Latin script opposite them, and separate publication of the sentences in the Chinese character, printed from the beautiful work of the distinguished calligraphist Tsui Chi. (In China and Japan written characters rank as works of fine art, and the calligraphist has always been held in high honour.)

Few books are reaching this country now from China, export difficulties being great, and the need at home so urgent that there are hardly any to spare for abroad; but the Chinese Government is working hard to produce educational works, and to make the vast population literate and ready for the new and wider life awaiting them.

## FLAT TO LET

A BLOCK of flats in Christchurch, New Zealand, is owned by a person who can think in terms other than those of rents and profits.

When a middle-aged couple answered an advertisement of a flat to let, the owner of the premises, a woman, told them that, since parents with young children were so generally discriminated against by property owners, and, therefore, found it difficult to find accommodation, she would let the flat only to a couple with children.

When the callers expressed surprise at such a reversal of the usual attitude of property owners, the landlady said that she considered such prejudice unjustified. Her experience had shown that the damage done by the average child was quite negligible, and parents were very ready to make amends for it, even without being asked to do so. "Children are more important than property," she added.

## BIBLES FOR THE WORLD

OVER 300,000 Bibles and parts of the Bible are now being printed in Sweden for use in Europe, where they are so sorely needed.

This is part of the campaign of the Bible Societies of America and Britain to provide Europe with Bibles. Shortage of paper in Britain and America makes it impossible to print the Bible in such large quantities for so many languages, so this arrangement has been made with the Swedish printing presses. The languages of this big edition are French, Czech, Serbian, Polish, Rumanian, Lettish, Estonian, and Greek.

In spite of censorship it is known that the reading of the Bible is on the increase in Europe. But nearly all the Bible depots of Europe are empty. In Prague the authorities closed the depot in 1943, and although the one in Vienna is open the printing of the Bible has been forbidden. In Budapest, now threatened with destruction, the depot is open and some new editions of the Scriptures are being printed and circulated. In Portugal 132,000 Bibles were distributed in twelve months, mainly by colporteurs.

All parts of the world are demanding more and more Bibles, and the supply of them is only regulated by the supply of paper. In the Andes colporteurs have climbed up to villages on the snow-line of the great mountains and have tramped through the hot plains of Brazil. Over 44,000 books were distributed in South America, a gallant adventure which began in 1800 with only 600 copies.

In China Bibles are so scarce that the Chungking Bible depot will only supply a Bible to some-

one who has lost his copy, or to people about to marry. Candidates for baptism or ordination can also get copies.

At Jerusalem—the natural home of the Bible—there has been a remarkable distribution of Bibles in forty languages, so many are the people speaking different tongues now gathered there; while in all the lands of the Bible in the Near and Middle East it has been distributed in 74 languages in the great centres of Cairo, Alexandria, and Port Said.

Sometimes Bible colporteurs are suspected of distributing seditious literature. One in Persia says: "We were interned by the road police. They searched our pockets, our notebooks and our boxes, and sent us under guard to their headquarters. They insisted that we should walk the distance, but we were finally allowed to go on donkeys. The journey took two days in burning heat, which gave us severe headaches. On arrival we were put in a small, insanitary, and dark prison. I think two days there would have seen the end of us. At night we gathered the prisoners together and gave them a two hours' magic lantern lecture on the life of Christ. The following day we were able to witness to our faith to several of the officers. Before long relief came and we were set at liberty."

On foot, by bus, by post and by air the Bible is distributed across the world, and the continual problem is for the supply to catch up with the demand.

## New York Will Abolish Its Slums

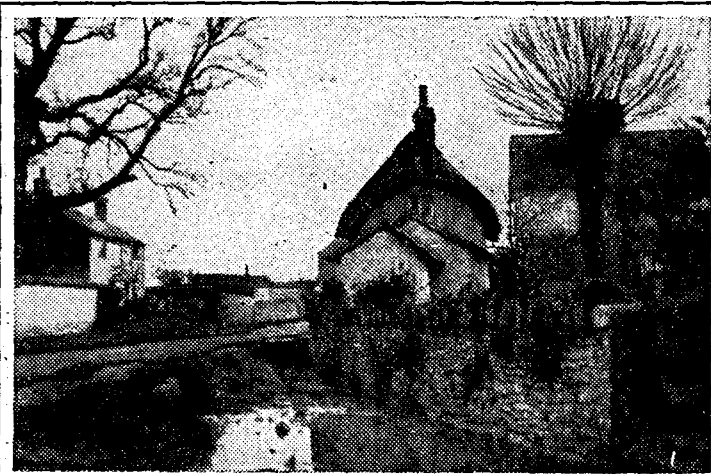
THE City of New York, almost as large as London, has disclosed plans to spend £65,000,000 in the first three years after the war in slum clearance and rebuilding.

It is remarkable that a city which will put up an immense skyscraper of 20 storeys or more and proceed, after a mere 15 years, to pull it down and build another in its place, half again as high and twice as costly, should not long since have done away with the grim tenement dwellings in which so many of its polyglot seven millions are housed. To its great credit, New York has built fine new blocks of dwellings for the masses, but never on the scale

needed, and seldom in the most urgently necessitous quarters.

This new project will tax the ingenuity of her officials, her architects, her social workers, for there are vested interests in American slum property, as there are in most countries.

The task will be further complicated by the fact that the poorer quarters of New York are so sharply divided by race. The Italians, the Greeks, the Jews, the Syrians, the Negroes, all tend to congregate; and if the new scheme aims at spreading and mixing them, it will create obstinate and difficult problems. But we may be sure that these are being adequately foreseen.



THIS ENGLAND

A picturesque corner of Haddenham, in the Isle of Ely, Cambridgeshire

## Editor's Table

PUCK  
S TO  
DW

SOME boys are annoyed when asked to chop wood. Cut up rough.

THE threat to German arms is growing. The Germans will have to take to their legs.

EVERY child should have his own little corner, says an L C C member. But he does not want to stand in it.

AN important town is usually on a river. Perhaps that is why it has a floating population.

## Creep of Arundel

confounded his passage among the intricacies of those lordly chimneys, by some unknown aperture had alighted upon this magnificent chamber; and, tired with his tedious explorations, was unable to resist the delicate invitation to repose; so, creeping between the sheets very quietly, laid his black head upon the pillow, and slept like a young Howard.

Charles Lamb

## OR DREAM?

Nation with nation, land with land,  
Unarmed shall live as comrades free;  
In every heart and brain shall throb  
The pulse of one fraternity.  
New arts shall bloom of loftier mould,  
And mightier music thrill the skies,  
And every life shall be a song,  
When all the earth is paradise.

John Addington Symonds



## HEART OF OAK

**H**MS VICTORY! There is music in the very name for all with ears attuned to the sound of the sea. And there is romance, too, in its story, for it is the very epitome of England's greatness at sea and of the service rendered by those redoubtable wooden walls of yore.

The story of HMS Victory has been told by F. W. Engholm (Lindsay Drummond 10s) in a handsome book, enhanced by the striking drawings of Kay Stewart. It is a grand story, finely told. The author has delved deep into the records, and the result is a tale which carries the reader onward as effortlessly as a small craft is borne on the flood tide.

We learn that the keel of the Victory was laid in 1759, witnessed by Mr Pitt, who had travelled by special coach; and that thousands of mighty oaks were felled for her making, the timbers mostly coming from Kent and the New Forest, but many, strange as it seems now, from Germany's Black Forest.

Early in the spring of 1765 the ship was ready for launching, and on May 7 Mr William Pitt again went down by coach to Chatham, to attend the ceremony. HMS Victory had cost the nation £150,000, but never was money spent to greater advantage.

Nelson was not her first commander—that honour fell to Admiral Keppel, who was succeeded by Admirals Hardy, Geary, and—of all people—the almost forgotten Francis William Drake, a descendant of the great Sir Francis's brother. Then came Kempenfelt (who ultimately transferred his flag to the ill-fated Royal George), Lord Howe, Lord Hood, Admiral Hotham (who nearly lost her in an action against the French fleet in 1795), and Sir John Jarvis, under whose

command the Victory took a hand in blockading the Spanish fleet at Cadiz Bay.

The greatest name in her story was still to come. In 1800, when the Victory had been in commission for 35 years and was obsolete as far as Whitehall was concerned, Lord Nelson, having seen her lying dilapidated and all forlorn in Chatham Dockyard, gave orders for her to be reconditioned as his flagship. The days of crowning glory were close at hand.

On a beautiful summer's morn, (June 30, 1805), we read, Captain Hardy proudly hoisted Admiral Nelson's flag on the foremast of the Victory. We all know what followed—it is the very stuff of English history. But Trafalgar is a story that shall be told and told again, and the author here tells it well. He goes on to bring the story up to date with the Victory in Number 2 Dry Dock, Portsmouth.

There HMS Victory still is, with Nelson's deathless signal still fluttering "from her lowered yards and topmasts as a message of courage and hope to the men and women of the English-speaking peoples of the world."

### The Late Arrival

**T**HE LNER are trying out a scheme at Leicester Central Station whereby a train can be held up for a moment for a late-coming passenger. The booking clerk communicates with officials on the platform by a loudspeaker, asking them to hold the train for the late arrival.

## The Letter From Home

**F**ROM India to London in eight days. That is the latest achievement of the Army Postal Services for an Air Mail letter; and, considering the difficulties with which the Army postal authorities are faced, this is an amazing feat of organisation. One of the points to which Lord Munster gave his attention on his visit to the Far East was the troops' mail. Evidently his work has borne fruit already.

The Army Postal Services work quietly behind the scenes, with no limelight. But they work quickly and bravely. Have you ever stopped to think that the sorting of the Forces' letters and parcels may have to be done in a train, a shattered building, perhaps even in a dug-out? Men are always on the move, and letters for them necessarily bear numbers and hieroglyphics; but still the sorting and redirection go on.

One day the full story of the Army Postal Services will doubtless be written, and it will tell a tale of great courage, organisation, and initiative. It will be a human story, too, for nothing is dearer to the hearts of our fighting men overseas than their letters from home. The men of the Army Postal Services know this and they respond accordingly. Hats off to our Army postmen!

## SURREY'S YOUNG FARMERS

**T**HE need for training young men to be farmers is beginning to be met, writes the CN farming correspondent.

As an instance of what is developing, the Surrey County Council have a scheme for establishing a farm institute at Worplesdon, to cost £30,000. This institute will have 400 acres of farmland attached, and it is intended to allot half of the places to ex-Service men. It is hoped that the first batch will begin training next October. The fees will be moderate, but no suitable candidate will be refused admission because he is unable to afford the cost of tuition and boarding. There will be, of course, a staff of expert trainers.

Thus the tale of our farming future begins to unfold. Farming practice, with its many scientific aspects, will be taught to young England in the way in which it should be taught.

Needless to say, the Ministry of Agriculture are closely watching the development of farm institutes, for they are determined that our farming shall go forward, fully abreast of the times, and not relapse into a decaying industry as it did after the last war.

## Shakespeare in Maori

**T**HE first Maori translation of a complete play of Shakespeare is claimed to have been made by Mr Pei Te Hurunui Jones, a native interpreter of Hawera, New Zealand, who has completed in Maori unabridged versions of both The Merchant of Venice and Othello, and an abridged version of Julius Caesar.

The translations were written to give the Maoris a wider choice of literature, and to provide classical works for students of the Maori language.



### A Cold Job

This airfield in Belgium is deep in snow, but that does not prevent the RAF from carrying on. The first job for the ground crews is to shovel the snow away from the wheels of the planes so that they can take off.

## BOMBS—AND GATE POSTS

**P**HOТОGRAPHS published from time to time show the world how bygone bombing has altered the face of London. A friend of the CN has told us that one area south of the Thames was so altered during the great blitz that, although he had lived there for 40 years, he was lost in the ruin of streets that had practically vanished.

It takes less than changes so drastic to destroy the bearings of some people. Thackeray's gifted daughter, Mrs Richmond Ritchie, declared that, through her leaving Wimbledon to live in the West End of London, there was only one method by which she could find her way about town: she had to go to Waterloo Station and begin her explorations from there.

Dr Johnson would have been lost in the dark streets of his London if certain posts with which he was familiar had been

disturbed. He could not go home to bed without handling and counting them, even recounting them if conversation made him doubt the reckoning.

The loss of a post might have made the poet Wordsworth doubt whether he was alive. The perplexing line in his Ode to Immortality, "those obstinate questionings of sense and outward things," had a real, a very strange, meaning.

Pressed to explain what the line meant, Wordsworth said that he had not infrequently to exert strength, as by shaking a gate-post, to gain assurance that the world around him was a reality.

Had Wordsworth lived in this age of violence, with its downfall of more than the gate-posts he was wont to handle as witnesses, he would have found it hard indeed to believe himself alive.

## Exiled Germans Look Ahead

**A** SWISS visitor to England has brought news of another international undertaking in Switzerland. That small country has given most generous help to refugees throughout the war, and is now looking forward to the problems of peace.

Some of the wartime refugees have been pastors of the German Confessional Church. Since the summer of 1939 they have met from time to time at Walzenhausen, where Pastor Vogt, now Director of the Swiss Church Aid for Evangelical Refugees, has discussed religious matters with them.

Now these German pastors, and laymen as well, are concerned about the rebuilding of Christian communities in Ger-

many, and need a place for continued conference and preparation. So an "oecumenical home" (a home open to any Christian) is to be built in Walzenhausen—in fact, building may already have started. The house will be of wood, and much of the furniture will be made by refugees who are being educated in handicrafts in Switzerland ready for the day when they can begin to be self-supporting again.

American Churches have promised 25,000 Swiss francs towards the cost of the home, which, in addition to serving Church workers, is expected to take care of some of the elderly and sickly refugees who are unlikely ever to be able to return to their homelands.

## Britain's Wartime Fitness

**I**N spite of all the hardships that war has brought to us on the Home front our national health continues to improve in the most encouraging manner. It is probable that never in her history has Britain had a healthier year than 1944.

There were over 5000 fewer deaths in London and the great provincial towns last year than in 1943, and 29,123 more babies were born. In the struggle against disease last year some

surprising and most heartening results were shown. In 1944 there was less typhoid and paratyphoid fever, less whooping cough, scarlet fever, measles, and 4537 fewer cases of influenza. One of the best advances was that made in the battle against diphtheria, where the number for 1944 was 4500 less than for 1943.

The highest praise is due to our medical authorities—often working under difficult wartime conditions—for these splendid results.

## BEDTIME CORNER

### A Baby's Lullaby



*SLEEP, little Baby, sleep! The holy Angels love thee,  
And guard thy bed, and keep a blessed watch above thee.*

### THE TWO DOGS

**A** HUNTER had two dogs, a hound to help him in the chase and a mastiff to look after his house while he was away.

Whatever the hound caught was divided and an equal share given to both dogs. At this the hound grumbled.

"I do not see why, after I have taken all the trouble to get the food, the mastiff should have half. He stops at home doing nothing, while I am working hard."

"That is not my fault," said the mastiff. "It is my master's orders that I should stay at home and look after the house, and I do that as well as you do the hunting."

Everyone should do his own work as well as he can without thinking of a reward.

### But the Sparrow, He was Wrong

**S**AID the Robin to the Sparrow:

"I should really like to know, Why these anxious human beings

Rush about and worry so!"

Said the Sparrow to the Robin: "Friend, I think that it must be That they have no Heavenly Father

Such as cares for you and me."

### PRAYER

*TEACH us, O Lord, to serve Thee with all our endeavour, that with heart and mind and hands dedicated to Thee we may live and work and play, spending each hour of every day wholly in Thy service. Amen*



# THE FUTURE OF OLD KING COAL

THE C N has often dealt with the importance of Old King Coal to Britain. The old gentleman has been something of a problem lately, and interesting suggestions for his future well-being have been put forward.

It was Horace Walpole who, in 1768, said that the best sun we have is made of Newcastle coal. Certainly coal is the life-blood of our nation, for it gives us heat, light, and power. It is essential, therefore, that our coal-mining industry shall be well-ordered and prosperous, for the sake of mine-owners, miners, and consumers alike.

Mr Robert Foot, Chairman of the Mining Association of Great Britain, has been making extensive inquiries as to ways and means of improving the industry. He has issued a report, in which he does not advocate the nationalisation of coal-mines, urged by many people, but rather the reorganisation of the industry on the basis of national service, under a Central Coal Board, with district boards working under it. Of the fifteen members of this Central Board, Mr Foot thinks that at least two should have started in the industry as boys in the pit and have worked their way up.

Other aspects of the coal problem are in a shilling pamphlet called *Conservation of Britain's Coal Resources*. It is written by Mr W. Wakefield Adam, who is a scientist and chairman of British Coal Distillation Ltd.

Perhaps his most startling suggestion is that we should, in the future, export not coal but only its by-products. Mr Adam tells us that four tons of coal will produce one ton of petrol worth £33 6s 8d. Four and a half tons of coal will produce

one ton of synthetic rubber worth £280. But these are only two of the 2000 to 3000 valuable by-products of coal.

Mr Wakefield Adam is strongly critical of our nation-wide waste of coal. To avoid this he is in favour of the electrification of all our railways, which would save the railways themselves £17,500,000 a year besides saving coal worth £24,000,000. Another method of saving coal is by promoting hydro-electric schemes.

Mr Wakefield Adam says that there is only another 40 years' supply of cheaply workable coal left in Britain.

There can be no doubt that our coal-mining industry needs reorganisation, and that the problem must be faced nationally, not locally or sectionally.

## The Glass Age

Ropes made of glass are being used by the Royal Navy, for actually they have a strength eight times greater than that of steel. With these ropes Britain's latest battleship was brought to a stop after her launching by Princess Elizabeth.

This fibrous glass is being put to many other uses. In a factory at Glasgow woven glass that will not stain or fade is being made into many things used in the home, including curtains and upholstery. As soon as certain technical difficulties have been overcome it will be used for clothing. The fabric is rotproof, fireproof, and mothproof.

# ILO as a World Parliament

AMBITIOUS proposals for the future of the International Labour Organisation were made by Mr Ernest Bevin when he opened the 94th session of the governing body of the ILO in London recently. Our Minister of Labour seemed to suggest that this international body, which represents the views of employers, workers, and governments throughout the world, might in the future become an international Parliament.

He said that the British Government desired to put the ILO as high in the scale of world organisation as possible, and that the delegates to this session must consider how best to dovetail the ILO into the system of world organisation which is now being developed.

He pointed out that the ILO must not be put in a subordinate position to the economic and social councils of the future World Organisation for Peace and International Co-operation, but must work on parallel lines on the economic problems which will face mankind after the war.

Mr Bevin's vision is a splendid one. All the leaders of the United Nations have agreed that after the war this World Organisation must be set up. The ILO cannot itself take the place of such a body, but in its councils the ILO, representing as it does the views and the welfare of millions of men and women engaged in industry everywhere, must play a leading part.

## TRAINING GIRLS

WITH the grand object of helping our country to cope with its future problems, the National Association of Training Corps for Girls have started a recruiting drive for 100,000 girls between the ages of 14 and 18. The Association already has 100,000 members in the four organisations it controls, the Girls' Training Corps, Women's Junior Air Corps, Girls' Naval Training Corps, and Junior Girls' Training Corps.

The ways in which our girls and young women can help Britain in the vital years to come are many. The girls in these corps will train for about four hours a week for forty weeks a year, and they will train in health, craftsmanship, planning and running a home, public affairs, and cultural, vocational, technical, and domestic subjects. Physical training and drill are also included in their programme. Girls who wish to join should apply, with their parents' permission, to the Headquarters of the National Association of Training Corps for Girls, Windsor House, 46 Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1, or to a local branch of the Association.

All young people will have to put their shoulders to the wheel when this war is over if we are to win the peace. Service will be the watchword.

## O Gentle Sleep

IN an article in *The Lancet*, Captain E. Lipman Cohen, R.A.M.C., after interviewing 500 young women during an investigation on sleep, states that heavy sleepers do not waken so refreshed as light sleepers. Eight hours is the average night's sleep, but at the age of seventeen, eight and a half hours is more usual.

# THE SAGA OF THE BURMA ROAD

THE famous Burma road, China's only strong link with the outside world, has been reopened after three years by the advance of the Allied Forces.

This invaluable road runs from Bhamo in Eastern Burma, close to the Chinese frontier, across the mountains into China. To recapture the Burmese end of the road was one of the chief objects of the Allied armies in Burma, and now Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander in South-East Asia, has announced that this part of his task is ended. He has driven the Japanese from Bhamo.

Very nearly all the road lies across the border in China, and it was built in 1938, after the Japanese had captured or blockaded all the seaports of China and the Chinese armies had been obliged to withdraw into the interior of their country. It was a life-line thrown desperately to her friends by a great nation of 400 millions in danger of losing her liberty to a cruel and remorseless foe.

## An Essential Link

China can provide herself with little more than rifles and machine-guns from her own industrial resources. For all the heavier weapons and equipment of modern war she has to depend on what can be sent to her by her friends. It was clear to her leaders that without communication with the outside world, China must perish. Failing seaports a road must be built. In Burma a road ran up to the Chinese frontier, but on China's side there was nothing but a wilderness of towering mountains. General Chiang Kai-shek decided that a road must be made to link up his centres in China with that short road in Burma.

To build such a road through a mountainous territory of deep gorges would have been a stupendous problem for a Western engineer provided with every modern device for scientific road-building, but the Chinese were absolutely without any modern road-building equipment. The road would have to be made by hand—by hundreds of thousands of hands.

## Willing Hands at Work

General Chiang Kai-shek made his call for road-builders, and in their hundreds of thousands the heroic Chinese people responded; men and women, grandfathers and children, they set about making the road. They had little but willing hands and stout hearts. They used old-fashioned tools and creaking bullock carts with solid wooden wheels to carry the material. They broke up the rocks and stones for the metal-ling by hand, and to roll them in on the road surface they hewed stone rollers from the solid rock by the wayside. In one place they had to blast their way through a narrow gorge. In places they had to lay their road over mountain passes 8000 feet high, and in others they had to cut a way through deep pine forests.

They finished their seemingly impossible task in a little over a year, and the result of their devoted labours was a road 1400 miles long from Chungking on the Yangtse River to the Burma frontier. Opened in December, 1938, this road is a

monument for all time to a great people's courage and tenacity—a Chinese symbol of Liberty. Along the new road truckloads of supplies began to travel for the hard-pressed Chinese armies who were fighting for Freedom while the rest of the world was still at peace.

Then came tragedy. The Japanese had attacked Britain and the USA; they invaded Burma and cut the Road. But for the fact that large Japanese forces were busy fighting the British and the Americans elsewhere, China must have been overwhelmed.

For three years the problem of keeping her supplied has been a difficult one for the Allies. Such materials as could be sent by air over the Himalayas were sent.

Now the friends of China everywhere rejoice to know that the Road is open again. The war supplies China so urgently needs are travelling by rail to Ledo on the India-Burma frontier where they are transferred to lorries along the magnificent new Ledo Road to its juncture with the Burma Road at Bhamo.

Once more the long lines of laden trucks wind through the beautiful pine forests, the wide stretches of rhododendrons, and the deep gorges of Burma's Victory way to China.

'Look how  
I've grown,  
Dad...'



## SINCE WE STARTED TAKING HALIBORANGE

Sturdy youngsters must have vital vitamins to meet the demands of healthy growth and development. The daily dose of Haliborange supplements the ordinary diet and maintains health and vitality especially at this time of the year. Haliborange is made from pure Halibut Liver Oil—rich in vitamins A and D. Moreover, Haliborange also contains the juice of fresh ripe oranges. This valuable addition provides the important vitamin C.

Each teaspoonful of Haliborange contains 1950 units of vitamin A, 280 units of vitamin D, and 7 m.g. of Ascorbic Acid (vitamin C).

From CHEMISTS ONLY 2/6 a bottle.  
Made in England by Allen & Hanburys Ltd.

# HALIBORANGE

the nicest way of taking  
HALIBUT LIVER OIL

## ROUND THE WORLD WITH BSA



### SOUTH AFRICA

No. 7

Ask an old soldier, of a regiment that has served in South Africa, to show you what is known as "the last shot at Rorke's Drift", and this is what he will do. He will put



his rifle to his shoulder and fire it; then, throwing the gun over his shoulder, he will catch it near the muzzle and crash down the butt on the head of an imaginary enemy.

This affair at Rorke's Drift was one of the bloodiest fights in South African history. A small British force was surprised by 10,000 Zulu warriors. Our troops, hopelessly out-numbered, fought to the last cartridge and, when their ammunition had all gone, they—or those that were still alive—continued to fight with the butts of their rifles. But the odds were too great and they were wiped out to a man.

Today, of course, the Zulus are our friends; indeed, they have adopted many of our ways. Numbers of them, for instance, own B.S.A. Bicycles. You wish you owned one? Then ask your parents to tell your local dealer—now! B.S.A. Bicycles are scarce, but he'll do his best to help you.

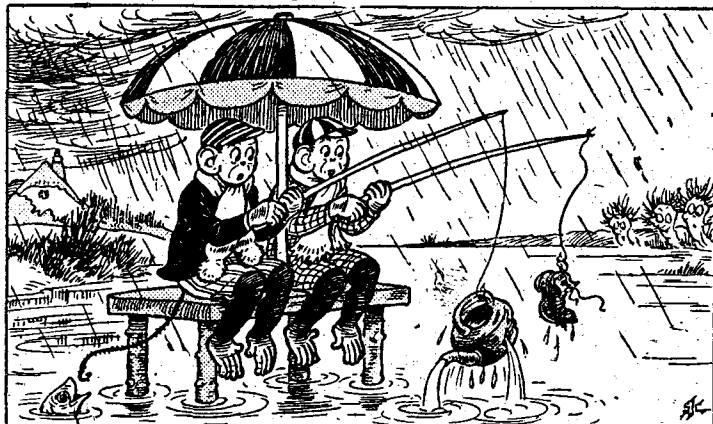
**BSA** THE  
BICYCLE YOU CAN'T BEAT!

B.S.A. Cycles Ltd., Birmingham, 11





## A Very Poor Catch



THE February floods had arrived, and Jacko and Chimp, having decided that the time was ripe for fishing, waded out to a seat which now stood in midstream, and settled down to try their luck. Soon it started to rain, but they were protected by a big garden sunshade which they had thoughtfully borrowed. But their luck seemed to be out, for all that Jacko caught was a leaky kettle, and Chimp's haul was an old boot. Altogether, in fact, it was a poor reward for a morning in the rain.

### NO MAN'S LAND

HECKLER at local by-election meeting: Your words have no effect on me. They go in at one ear and out at the other.

Candidate: Of course, there is nothing in between to stop them.

### PROMENADE

THERE was a young lady of Ryde  
Whose shoe-strings were seldom untied;  
She purchased some clogs,  
And small spotty dogs, [Ryde,  
And frequently walked about

### A Tongue Twister?

CLEVER cook Clara cooked a cosy cup of curdled custard.

### TOO MUCH

"We are most anxious that our flats shall be quiet," said the agent. "Have you any noisy children, a wireless radiogram, musical instruments, and do you keep a dog or cat?"  
"No," said the prospective tenant, "but I am afraid my fountain pen scratches a little."

## The BRAN TUB

### Time Flies, But—

Acid drops      Lamp shades  
Candle sticks      Music stands  
Cat calls      Organ stops  
Fish slices      Penny stamps  
Grass slopes      Sausage rolls  
Holiday trips      Tin whistles  
Indiarubber tyres      Water falls.

### A SAD FATE

THERE was a young man of Japan,  
Who wrote verses after this plan;  
But the populace rose  
As you may suppose,  
And they wiped out that wretched young man.

### Other Worlds

IN the morning Jupiter is in the south-west. In the evening Venus is in the south-west, Uranus and Saturn are in the south, and Jupiter is low in the east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 7.30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 7.

### What the Trees Give Us

THE Hazel gives us children's hoops, walking sticks, fishing rods, hurdles, crates, stakes, withes or bands, whip handles, summer-houses and rustle furniture.

The light charcoal obtained from the older wood of the hazel is used in making gunpowder, and is excellent for artists' crayons.

The roots make strangely veined veneers, and the nuts are edible.

### Children's Hour

Here are details of the BBC programmes for Wednesday, February 7, to Tuesday, February 13.

WEDNESDAY, 5.20 Aberdeen Junior Arion Choir, conducted by Mrs Carruthers Greig; followed by Birds Sing: BBC recordings made in a Scottish Bird Sanctuary. Major the Hon Henry Douglas-Horne talks about Scottish Birds in winter.

THURSDAY, 5.20 Ulster Magazine.

FRIDAY, 5.20 The Case of the Crooked Mill, a play by Philip Phillips.

SATURDAY, 5.20 The Zoo Wakes Up: A visit with "Mac" to the London Zoo.

SUNDAY, 5.20 A Talk by John Betjeman; followed with songs by the Westonbirt Choir.

MONDAY, 5.20 George—or, The Adventure of a Goldfish, a true story by Eileen Underwood, told by Elizabeth; followed by Music at Random, by Helen Henschel; and Down North by Tony Onraet.

TUESDAY, 5.30 Seven Magic Apples, a play by Marris Murray, telling of the strange adventures of young Malcolm, King of the Far Glen, and of his famous horse, Champion of Silver.

### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Rascals of the Treetops. "Look, a Grey Squirrel," whispered Don to Farmer Gray. The Squirrel was intent upon its task of burying a nut in the ground. Catching sight of the watchers, it raced up the trunk of a tree, and with several amazing leaps disappeared.

"It was a Red Squirrel," said the farmer. "At certain times they lose that deep reddish hue; but are easily distinguished by their ear-tufts, which Grey Squirrels never possess. The Grey Squirrel does far more damage than the Red, and is a great pest."

"Both species are guilty of stealing birds' eggs."

### Confidentially

"I'm rather out of form, I think," Complained the damaged Cup. "But if for me you'll pour a drink, Perhaps twill cheer me up."  
"To fancy you can hold hot tea Is foolishness. In fact," The Pot replied, "twixt you and me, I'm certain that you're cracked."

### LOOKING AHEAD

KEEP an eye on your camping outfit during the winter months, airing your tent and ground sheet regularly if you need to have them folded away, and examining them for holes or mildew.

The ideal way, of course, to keep them is to hang them up in a dry, airy place, but not everyone has the space.

### No Fear

"Joe's absolutely afraid of work," said Bill.  
"Not he," replied Jack. "I've seen him lie down and fall asleep by the side of it."

### CATCHES

Two sheep are in a field, one facing south, the other north. How can they see each other without turning round?

A man came to cross-roads, and found the signpost flat on the ground. He did not know his way, but made the signpost tell him.

If this and that and that and this make a dozen, and that is twice this, what is that?

### Non-Stop Run

THE speaker began to weary his audience with a long and halting talk in which he continually repeated the same idea.

After some time a man at the back of the hall could endure it no longer, so he slipped out of the door, where he found another sufferer, who asked:

"Has he finished?"  
"Yes, long ago; but he won't stop."

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

A Problem in Rhyme  
Carol, Coral

Stepping it Out  
176 times. Their right feet would come down together at the end of every 10 yards.

C	R	A	N	E	A	S	S
A	I	D	T	I	G	H	T
R	O	M	P	N	E	A	R
T	I	R	E	D	M	A	
D	T	A	K	E	N		Y
R	C	T	E	N	O	R	
U	R	G	E	T	O	A	D
G	O	U	R	D	S	I	R
S	P	Y	R	E	E	D	Y

## Brian is always lively

His energy and spirits are amazing. Simply bubbling over with life. Keeps you "on the go."

But you would rather have him that way than peevish, cross and poorly! Mother certainly knows best when she gives an ailing child 'California Syrup of Figs.' When bilious, sick or constipated, this natural laxative quickly corrects upsets of the system, and the little one is soon "as right as ninepence."



## "California Syrup of Figs"

*"Bermaline"*

Baked by good bakers everywhere

*"The Bread we all enjoy"*

Enquiries to: MONTGOMERIE & CO. LTD. IBROX GLASGOW.

## Her teeth are YOUR concern-

Every mother wants her children to grow up with strong, firm white teeth, safe from the danger of decay. The way to make sure of this is by giving the right care when they are young. Dentists advise the use of

the one toothpaste containing 'Milk of Magnesia', which corrects acid mouth, so often the cause of dental trouble.

The toothpaste to ask for is Phillips' Dental Magnesia. Train your children to use it night and morning. They love its pleasant, mild flavour.

1/1d. and 1/10½d.

**Phillips' Dental Magnesia**

\* Milk of Magnesia is the trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia.